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State Investment to Retain and Boost Jobs in Grant, Klickitat and Lewis Counties

OLYMPIA-State investments in Grant, Klickitat and Lewis counties will retain existing jobs and boost new job creation, as a result of actions taken at the May 19, 2005 meeting of the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB).

The Port of Quincy, in Grant County, received conditional approval for \$674,000 (\$564,200 loan and \$109,800 grant) to extend approximately 1,800 feet of railspur (connecting with Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway mainline) and approximately 3,200 feet of 10-inch sanitary sewer (service provided by the City of Quincy) to serve the new 227,000 sq. ft. \$18,500,000 warehouse and shipping facility of Columbia Colstor, Inc. The proposed Columbia Colstor plant will be a separate facility and expand its current refrigeration operations at the Port's 320-acre Inland Intermodal Industrial Park. CERB funds will be leveraged with \$168,500 from the Port and Grant County toward completing the \$842,500 public infrastructure project. Columbia Colstor anticipates 40 new full-time jobs will be created.

"The Port of Quincy is excited to team with CERB to provide funding for rail and sanitary sewer extensions for our second tenant at the Port's Inland Intermodal Industrial Park, Columbia Colstor, Inc., a mainstay in the Quincy business community," remarked Curt A. Morris, President, Port of Quincy Board of Commissioners. "The CERB funds will enable the Port to provide infrastructure that will attract future tenants who will create new jobs and strengthen the economic vitality of Quincy, Grant County, and North Central Washington," concluded Morris.

Over the past five years, the Port of Quincy has leveraged nearly \$9,000,000 from federal and state sources and formed strategic alliances with private businesses to gain strategic position in a changing world in freight mobility. In 2001, CERB helped the Port take advantage of freight mobility opportunities and approved \$250,000 for a 1,000-foot rail spur, switch and modifications to existing track within the

Intermodal Industrial Park. Trends clearly show that companies have moved away from coastal sites and opened large retail and distribution centers in less populated inland areas. Those centers handle cargo and take advantage of less expensive real estate and labor.

The Port of Klickitat, in Klickitat County, received conditional approval for \$1,000,000 (\$525,000 loan and \$475,000 grant) to help construct a 12,000-15,000 sq. ft. flex building, conduct preliminary site investigation, design, engineering, utility extensions (water, sewer, gas, telephone) and parking facilities, including road access and landscaping. CERB funds will be used in combination with \$400,000 from the Port to complete the \$1,400,000 public project.

"The Port of Klickitat is very appreciative of CERB's continued support," said S. Wayne Vinyard, President of the Port of Klickitat Board of Commissioners. "Our partnerships with CERB, federal, state and county agencies have granted us opportunities to diversify our resource based economy by allowing small businesses to grow and prosper. This project builds on previously successful projects, none of which would have been possible without CERB's assistance."

Additional building space is required for two existing Port tenants, The Insitu Group, Inc. and Mountain Home Biological, whose business growth demands additional space. Insitu will create 30 new jobs and retain 70 existing jobs. Mountain Home Biological will create 7 new jobs and retain 7 existing jobs. Both companies' growth demands must be met at the Port of Klickitat, or they will be forced to look in Oregon, as there is no other industrial or business park properties available for lease in the area, other than at the Port of Klickitat.

The Insitu Group is the cornerstone of a high-tech industrial business cluster at the Port of Klickitat affecting business development within a 25-mile radius of the Port, and a nationally recognized leader in the production of miniature unmanned robotic aerial vehicles for military and commercial applications. Mountain Home Biological processes and prepares specimens for school biology study and supplies laboratory equipment. One of the company's primary specimens are "owl pellets," which the company sanitizes and sells to schools for biology classroom dissection to determine what the owl has eaten by the bones found in the pellets.

The Port of Klickitat has fostered business development as a primary goal since 1992 and counts The Insitu Group, a tenant since 1996, and Mountain Home Biological, a tenant since 2001, as success stories. CERB investments totaling \$2.3 million since 1992 have helped the Port grow its 142-acre Bingen Point Industrial Park into the economic development force it plays in the surrounding area today.

The City of Winlock, in Lewis County, received conditional approval for \$1,000,000 (\$775,000 loan and \$225,000 grant) to help construct 6,700 linear feet of 8-inch and 10-inch waterline, a booster pump station, two pressure reducing stations, improvements to the City's Eureka Well #3 and design and engineering associated with the public infrastructure project. These improvements are for the purpose of delivering water to a proposed 495,000 sq. ft. \$130,000,000 facility constructed by the Cardinal Float Glass Company. The Cardinal facility, serving the entire West Coast, will be a catalyst for future economic growth in the Winlock area due to the water resource that will be developed. CERB funds will be

leveraged with \$4,829,700 from other state or private sources completing the \$5,829,700 public project costs. Cardinal Float Glass anticipates 226 full-time jobs will be created.

"The Cardinal Float Glass facility is welcomed by the citizens of Winlock and Lewis County," said City of Winlock Mayor Cy Meyers. "It means a great deal to our area to have an outstanding company like Cardinal Float Glass locate near Winlock and create 226 new jobs. We thank and appreciate Cardinal and its outstanding people for selecting the site and their perseverance. The elements required for this development represent an exceptional level of partnership and cooperation among Cardinal Float Glass, the Lewis County Economic Development Council, Lewis County, the City of Winlock and several state agencies. Many people have worked very hard over several years to make this happen. With funds that CERB approved today, the City is able to make water system improvements required for the new Cardinal Float Glass facility, and that is very important," concluded Meyers.

Judith Boekholder, Chair of the Community Economic Revitalization Board commented, "These projects are examples of the length of time it can take, sometimes many years, for economic development to occur and grow. For the past 23 years, the CERB Program has been an important state tool for communities in need to meet the financing gap for public economic development infrastructure required by industry. Manufacturing sector industries continue to post one of the highest job multipliers in Washington with an average of 1.738 additional jobs created for every direct manufacturing job created," continued Boekholder. "The 300 direct jobs created and 77 existing jobs retained by the manufacturing companies supported by CERB actions today will realize greater benefits over time," concluded Boekholder.

"Collaboration between the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development's Economic Development Division staff and local project sponsors helps strengthen and guide projects to state financing opportunities, such as CERB," said Juli Wilkerson, Director of CTED. "These important business development projects affecting Central Washington, the Columbia Gorge area and Southwest Washington are examples of the depth and breadth of community and CTED staff work that's required to prepare business development projects for implementation and new job creation. CTED is pleased to work with CERB in support of Washington's industrial business climate," concluded Wilkerson.

CERB is the state's economic development resource strategically focused to help business and industry create and retain jobs in partnership with local government. CERB finances publicly owned economic development infrastructure to encourage new development and expansion in areas where growth is desired. These improvements include industrial water and sewer, industrial wastewater treatment facilities, telecommunications, electricity, natural gas, roads, bridges, general-purpose industrial buildings and port facilities. Management support is provided by the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. More information is available at www.cted.wa.gov.

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